


# CTA lands \$57 million to rebuild State/Lake el stop

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The hoary Chicago Transit Authority el stop at State and Lake is getting a rebuild.

Officials today announced approval of a \$56.9 million federal grant that will be used to design and rebuild the station that, combined with the subway below, serves as a connection point for five separate rapid-transit lines.

Total cost of the rebuild—which will include wider platforms, improved lighting and an elevator—is estimated at more than \$75 million. Some of the additional funds needed likely will come from local sources, but the CTA earlier had obtained an additional \$5.5 million in federal planning funds.

"The CTA hub at State and Lake is an iconic location in the heart of Chicago and it deserves a state-of-the-art station," Mayor Rahm Emanuel said in a statement. "This project has been talked about for more than a decade and now we are moving forward."

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The current station dates to 1895, back when all city transit was privately owned and operated. The CTA says the station is the second-busiest stop on the Loop el, with more than 3.1 million passengers a year.

A relatively obscure government unit, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, played a key role in lining up the funding. CMAP controls certain grants, and steered anti-pollution funds to the CTA for this project.

Transit has been a high priority for Emanuel. Only last week, the CTA opened the new Washington/Wabash station on the Loop el, less than half a mile away.

No construction date for State and Lake has been set.